

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 EA-06 AF-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEAE-00

CIEP-01 STR-04 OES-03 EPA-01 CEQ-01 /119 W

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R 161555Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9072

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 2950

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, SU

SUBJECT: KOSYGIN VISIT: FIRST DAY

REF: TUNIS 2862

1. SUMMARY: KOSYGIN VISIT STARTED WITH SOVIET PREMIER PUBLICLY MENTIONING EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION. IN TOASTS EXCHANGED AFTER DINNER BOURGUIBA PRAISED USSR AS DEFENDER OF LIBERTY, WHICH HAS WORKED FOR PEACE BY SUPPORTING ARABS AGAINST ISRAEL. BOURGUIBA HINTED HE HOPES VISIT WILL MEAN INCREASED SOVIET ASSISTANCE. KOSYGIN EXPRESSED DESIRE TO TIGHTEN COOPERATION AND BELIEF THAT RELATIONS CAN BE CONSIDERABLY DEVELOPED AND DIVERSIFIED. USSR, HE SAID, SEEKS EQUITABLE SOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST, SUPPORTS LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND BACKS LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. BOTH MEN REFERRED TO A COMING BOURGUIBA
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VISIT TO MOSCOW AS IF IT IS STILL IN THE CARDS, BUT

NO DATE SET. END SUMMARY.

2. ARRIVAL: KOSYGIN ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AND WAS GREETED BY BOURGUIBA, SENOIR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, BUT ONLY A SPARSE AIRPORT CROWD INCLUDING THE SOVIET COMMUNITY IN TUNIS. SOVIET PREMIER MADE BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID THAT "WE THINK THAT WE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW WITH TUNISIAN OFFICIALS ON THE QUESTIONS THAT INTEREST OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE COME TO TUNISIA AS FRIENDS AND NATURALLY FRIENDS ALWAYS HAVE PROBLEMS THEY OUGHT TO DISCUSS." BOURGUIBA AND KOSYGIN THEN TOURED TUNIS AND PROCEEDED TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT CARTHAGE.

3. BOURGUIBA SPEECH AT STATE DINNER: THE PRESIDENT'S TOAST PAID THE CUSTOMARY PAEANS TO KOSYGIN AND THE USSR BUT BOURGUIBA DWELLED MOST ON SOVIET EFFORTS IN SECOND WORLD WAR. HE STATED THAT "HISTORY WILL FOREVER BEAR WITNESS TO THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE TO NAZISM AND FACISM AND THE WORLD IS NOT READY TO FOR GET THE IMMENSE SACRIFICES YOU MADE IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY." TURNING TO THR PRESENT, BORUGUIBA NOTED TUNISIA'S APPRECIATION FOR THE USSR'S CONSTANT SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACIAL OPPRESSION. CALLING TO MIND TUNISIA'S SUPPORT FOR THESE CAUSES, BOURGUIBA MADE SPECIAL MENTION OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND THE "GRAVE INJUSTICE COMMITTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE IN 1947. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL FAIL IN ALL ITS OBLIGATIONS IF IT PERMITS ISRAEL TO CONTINUE ITS OCCUPATION OF ALL OF PALESTINE AND PARTS OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. "THE LEAST IT CAN DO," HE SAID, " IS MAKE THE ISRAELI AGRESSOR RESPECT THE INTERNATIONAL LAW TO WHICH IT OWES ITS EXISTENCE." THE SOVIET UNION, HE ADDED, HAS WORKED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE BY GIVING ARAB COUNTRIES POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT.

4. BOURGUIBA PRAISED THE USSR FOR ITS SUPPORT OF DETENTE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND FINISHED HIS SPEECH WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENCES TO GOT-USSR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE THANKED THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING CENTER FOR ENGINEERS. THIS OUGHT TO INSPIRE US, HE SAID, TO ENVISAGE OTHER MEANS OF COOPERATION. HE ADDED THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE VISIT WILL CONTRIBUTE LARGELY TO THIS END. BOURGUIBA CLOSED WITH HOPE THAT HE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO VISIT USSR IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIETS'

INVITATION.

5. KOSYGIN SPEECH: AFTER THANKING BOURGUIBA FOR THE WARM WELCOME ACCORDED THE DELEGATION AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION, KOSYGIN SAID THAT "WE ARE IN YOUR COUNTRY SINCERELY DESIREING TO TIGHTEN SOVIET-TUNISIAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. " WE BELIEVE WE CAN SAY THAT THIS DESIRE IS SHARED BY THE TUNISIAN SIDE." AFTER REITERATING THE SOVIET INVITATION TO BOURGUIBA TO VISIT THE USSR, KOSYGIN CHARACTERIZED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS BEING BASED ON EQUALITY IN RIGHTS, MUTUAL RESPECT OF SOVEREIGNTY, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE BELIEVE, HE SAID, THAT SOVIET TUNISIAN RELATIONS CAN BE DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLY, TAKING ON A WIDER AND MORE DIVERSIFIED CHARACTER. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS OPINION IS BASED ON OBJECTIVE REASONS SUCH AS THE COMMON TUNISIAN AND SOVIET SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, THE SUPPRESSION OF COLONIALISM, AND AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION IN THE NEAR EAST THAT WOULD RESPOND TO THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLES.

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